

Tuesday July 20 2004

for immediate release

No safety compromise in conserving resources – Automotive Parts industry

A thriving automotive parts recycling industry, the re-use of good second hand parts and quality assured non-genuine parts are important cogs in Australia's world competitive automotive repair industry, according to VACC.

"Reusing perfectly good parts and panels for car repairs prevents unnecessary wastage and helps contain costs for consumers," VACC Executive Director David Purchase said.

"Recycled parts should not be overlooked for quality, value and usefulness, particularly for certain repairs which may not warrant new parts. Non-genuine parts – which meet Australian standards – also have a role in providing consumers with choice and maintaining a competitive industry.

"It is fair to say skilled industry professionals in VACC's accredited crash repair and automotive repair divisions know what's appropriate for maintaining and repairing vehicles without compromising safety or a vehicle's value. In many cases, less expensive second hand parts are perfectly adequate to the task.

"It is true however that some insurers override the expert technical advice of crash repairers and insist on short cuts or the use of poor quality parts to reduce costs. This practice can compromise the value of motorists' assets and, with crumple zones and computer-controlled SRS devices relying on the integrity of parts and the quality of repair, can also compromise safety.

"Genuine, quality assured non-genuine parts, or good recycled parts, can be used without compromise by expert repairers.

Mr Purchase said there were 1200 Parts Recyclers in Australia who each year 'reprocess' about half a million damaged vehicles to sell safe, useable items.

"By re-using parts, demand for raw materials and energy used in manufacturing new products is reduced. Landfill containing car shells and components is minimised.

"Automotive recycling represents environmental sustainability – the way of the future," Mr Purchase said.

For more information see www.vacc.motor.net.au under Automotive Dismantlers and Recyclers Division (ARD).

Ends.

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